

ELIGIBILITY:

1. Poetry slam participants must be enrolled in a middle school, high school, or home school program in the Congressman's District. If a competitor's school is not located in the Congressman's District he/she may still compete only if he/she resides within the Congressman's District. If a competitor is unsure whether or not he/she lives in the district, competitors may check which district they reside in by visiting the House of Representatives' website (<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>). Poets must be no younger than 14 years old and no older than 18 years old on the day registration opens. Graduating seniors from the class of 2016 are permitted to participate.
2. Only individuals can submit poems. Team poetry is not permitted.
3. Competing participants must be registered with the competition organizers and submit the link to his or her performance video prior to July 26, 2016 at 11:59 PM. Only registered poets may compete.
4. If a competitor cannot attend, he/she must notify the office of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver as soon as possible. Individuals who cannot compete on the day of the competition will not be awarded any prizes or have their piece scored.

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS/REGISTRATION

1. Each competitor must prepare and submit ONLY one, ORIGINAL poem. This competition discourages the use of previously published, previously performed, and past pieces used in other contests.
2. All participants are expected to submit a completed competition registration form and return it to the office of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver at 101 W. 31st Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64108 or by email to cianan.lesley@mail.house.gov. NOTE: registration forms received after the deadline will not be accepted.

As part of the registration form, competitors will be required to submit a recording of the participant performing the ORIGINAL poem prior to the competition. The participant should post their recording to YouTube. The link to this video will be asked for on the competition registration form. The recording of the poem should not include any of the participant's personal information, as personal information will be submitted in the registration form. In the visual recording, the participant should state his or her name, the title of the poem, and perform the poem.

Should the participant submit multiple videos and registration forms, the FIRST submission will be reviewed.

The deadline for submission of both the video and registration form is 11:59 PM on July 26, 2016. Please submit to cianan.lesley@mail.house.gov.

The competition registration form can be found on the website of Congressman Emanuel Cleaver at www.house.gov/cleaver.

Please see the poem content guidelines below prior to submission.

3. The top 10 submissions will be chosen by event coordinators. Those participants who have been chosen will be contacted by email on July 29, 2016. Participants must respond to accept their competition spot, reply with the original video file, and follow all of the instructions in the initial email by August 2, 2016 at 12:00 PM in order to claim their competition spot. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the acceptance of their competition spot, AS WELL AS the original video file of their poetry, has been received. It is in the best interest of the competitor to ensure that their acceptance of their competition spot, as well as their video file, has been received by the office by 5 PM on July 29th, 2016, as no one will be in the office on July 30th or July 31st to confirm submissions. Those videos will then be uploaded online to the competition's YouTube channel on August 3, 2016. Failure to accept a competition position or to submit the original video file by the aforementioned deadline will result in an inability to complete.

4. Once all submissions are uploaded online, the community at large will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite videos by liking them. In the case of a tie during the live competition, the video that received more "likes" during the voting period will receive the higher rank.

5. Selected poets will be expected to perform live at 6:00 PM on August 8, 2016 at The Blue Room.

6. Tickets will cost \$5.00 at the door. Note: the competitors do not need a ticket.

COMPETITION FORMAT:

1. The competition includes one performance from each competitor in a random order. The participant recites their poem followed by scoring from the judges. The judges' score sheets will be collected after each performance, but scores will not be announced until all of the competitors have performed.

2. Poets must perform the same poem that was submitted on video with their registration. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification from the competition.

3. No contestant may perform more than one time.

4. Contestants must be physically present and checked in with the competition organizers at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the competition.

5. A mixed panel of five artists and educators shall judge each contestant.

6. Each poem performed shall receive a score from each judge ranging from 0.0 to 10.0 inclusive (i.e. to one decimal place). The contestant with the highest cumulative score at the end of the

competition receives a rank of 1, followed by the second-place contestant with a rank of 2, and so on. In the event of a tie, the contestant with the higher number of likes on the YouTube channel will receive the higher rank.

7. Coaches/Parents may accompany their poets to the competition, but may not appear on stage. They may not make verbal communication, nonverbal gestures, or suggestions during the performances.

8. The competition will be held in the Blue Room, and because of the size of the space, seating will be limited to the first 150 people. The first 100 people can reserve tickets ahead of time by calling (816) 842-4545. The final 50 tickets and any other remaining tickets will be sold at the doors of the event.

POEM CONTENT, FORM, STRUCTURE:

1. All poems must be the original work of the poets performing them. Plagiarized poems, poems which directly pull from the work of others without doing substantial creative work, or poems that use original material pulled from other sources without citation will be disqualified (i.e. will receive a score of 0.0). Note: direct quotations with attribution/citation, allusions, or inspiration typically do not count as plagiarism, though any language directly pulled from another source should be verbally cited. When in doubt, check with the competition organizers or with the event manager. Plagiarism not caught during the performance can be disqualified after, changing that poem's score to a 0.0.

Up to 15% of a poem's total length (as measured in seconds, rounded up to the nearest 10 seconds) may be quoted work. This might include quotations or song lyrics. Thus, a 3-minute poem may contain up to 30 seconds of quoted material, a 2-minute poem may contain up to 20 seconds of quoted material, and a 1-minute poem may contain up to ten seconds of quoted material. All quoted material should be attributed with a verbal citation.

If a coach, team member, or audience member suspects that a poem contains plagiarized material, that person should bring it to the attention of the tournament committee.

2. In deference to creating a space where as many people as possible are able to participate, and feel safe doing so, we ask that participants limit their speech in a few notable ways:

Each instance of an offensive speech act (as determined by the event manager and/or tournament committee) will result in at least a 1 point penalty to the poem's score. A single poem may have multiple instances of offensive speech. The final decision as to a poem's appropriateness for this competition, as well as any penalties for content violations, rests with the tournament committee.

Poems performed should not encourage violence or apply racial, ethnic, gender-biased, homophobic, religious, able-ist, or otherwise discriminatory slurs, speech, or language to anyone. Additionally, poems should contain as little profanity as is possible. Finally, poems should not contain sexually explicit or pornographic language.

Poems may discuss trauma, tragedy, violence, discrimination, profanity, and/or cultural norms and social mores (among other topics), and in doing so the poet may find that the use of language otherwise prohibited above is absolutely necessary in order to fulfill the artistic intent of the poem. In these instances, the poet should make the poem's intent absolutely clear, and should include a short written rationale with the registration materials.

3. Poems may last up to 3 minutes and 0 seconds before time-penalties are assessed. Time penalties shall be half a point for every 10 seconds over the time allotment (rounded up). The timekeeper will begin timing immediately after the competitor introduces him or herself and states the title of his or her poem.

The timekeeper will provide nonverbal time-warning signals at the one-minute, two-minute, two-minute and thirty second, and three-minute marks.

4. Poets may NOT feature props, musical accompaniment, or costumes. Props are defined as any non-body piece of equipment. Poets may, however, stomp, clap, snap, sing, beatbox, etc., so long as all noises are created by the interaction between the poet's body, the stage, and/or the microphone(s).

5. The poet is not required to follow any specific theme; however, poets are encouraged to perform poems about the current state of world affairs, politics, or social justice.

Notes:

1. We encourage you to become intimately familiar with the poem you will compete with. Memorization is required. Rehearsing beforehand is strongly recommended and will likely earn more points.

2. Judges will be seated together in view of the competitors. Their scores will be passed down to the event host, who will announce the top scorers at the end of the competition.